

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-29 are now in the application. The indication that claims 8-13, 15-21 and 23-26 are allowed and that claim 5 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations from the claim from which it depends is hereby noted with appreciation. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "wherein the polymer composition mixture before drying has a viscosity at 25°C of 3000 mPa·s or less" from claim 5. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite "wherein the polymer is one member selected from the group consisting of NR, BR and SBR" in place of "wherein the polymer is at least one member selected from the group consisting of NR, BR and SBR" to address the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in view of its objection. In view of the amendment to Claim 1, Claim 5 has been amended to recite "a viscosity at 25°C of 2000 mPa·s or less" in place of "a viscosity at 25°C of 3000 mPa·s or less" Basis for this amendment to claim 5 can be found on page 10, line 28 of the specification. The amendments to the claims do not introduce any new matter.

Claims 1-6, 8-13, 15-21 and 23-26 are drawn to the elected invention. Claims 7, 14, 22 and 27-29 are drawn to non-elected invention and may be cancelled by the Examiner upon the allowance of the claims directed to the elected invention.

The objection of claim 14 has been rendered moot by its cancellation.

The rejection of claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph has been overcome by the amendment to claim 1 reciting "wherein the polymer is one member selected from the group consisting of NR, BR and SBR."

The rejections of Claims 1-4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 11-292978 A and of Claim 6 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 11-292978 A, in view of US Patent 5,842,289 to Chandran et al. have been overcome by the amendment to claim 1 reciting "wherein the polymer composition mixture before drying has a viscosity at 25°C of 3000 mPa·s or less" from claim 5. Claim 5 was not subject to this rejection.

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve in any way to advance the prosecution of this application, the undersigned is available at the telephone number noted below.

The Office is authorized to charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21713-00031-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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